



## Salem Branch

P.O. Box 2144, Salem, OR 97308

<http://salem-or.aauw.net>

September 2019

AAUW SALEM BRANCH

invites you to attend a

# Membership Social

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2019



Gaiety Hollow  
545 Mission St SE  
Salem, OR  
1-3pm  
Tea and refreshments

RSVP Here:

<https://bit.ly/2Md5Cr7>

or

[dmlynarc@willamette.edu](mailto:dmlynarc@willamette.edu)  
(503) 931-8401

[www.lordandschryverconserver.org/gaiety-hollow.html](http://www.lordandschryverconserver.org/gaiety-hollow.html)



Donna Lutsyk, recipient of AAUW Outstanding Graduating Woman award, will speak at the Social. See Page 3 for excerpts from her thank-you letter to AAUW.

## A Message from Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Dello Stritto



Greetings Members,

September is already here! First, I want to send out a public welcome to the new member of the Salem branch board this year, Karen Sims. She is taking over as our new secretary. The board held a planning meeting this summer and had adopted these goals for this year:

1. Plan for the financial future of the branch
2. Engage members and encourage them to become active and branch leaders.
3. Record the oral history of our long-term members
4. Educate the community and provide programming that promotes advocacy for women and girls
5. Plan informal meet-ups for members to socialize
6. Support health care for women by engaging with other organizations

In the Fall, we typically have programming focused on public policy. This year we are participating in the *Public Forum on Campaign Finance Reform* on September 17 at the State Capitol. (See Page 4)

We hope to see everyone at our Membership Social event on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Last year we very much enjoyed Gaiety Hollow, so we decided to return this year. Gaiety Hollow was the home, garden and office of Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, the first all-female landscape architecture firm in the Pacific Northwest.

I am also pleased to report that we will have a special guest at our Membership Social. Donna Lutsyk is this year's recipient of the Chemeketa Community College Outstanding Graduating Woman. The Salem Branch has been supporting this award to a graduating woman for many years. We are excited to meet her at this event. Read more about Donna on Page 3.

Finally, If you have not renewed your membership yet, please do so as soon as possible!

### Salem Branch Board for 2019-2020

Kristin Mauro resigned from the board and her position as Program Chair because her aging grandmother and parents in Iowa need her frequent visits.



From left: Mary Ellen Dello Stritto, Dolores Mlynarczyk, Joyce Zook, Laura Buhl, Betsy McDowell, Mary Bauman, Karen Sims

# Interest Groups

New members are invited to join a group.

## Books

### Random Readings—Wed., Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

Host: Roberta Robinson

Book: *Daring to Drive* by Manal Al - Sharif

Co-chairs: Mary Bauman

Dolores Mlynarczyk

## Food

### Creative Cooking – Wed., Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Potluck.

Home of Lark Abrahamson

More info: Call Lark Abrahamson

### Out to Lunch Bunch – Fri., Sept. 13, 11:30 a.m.

Restaurant: Rudy's, 350 Chemeketa St. NE

Host: Margo Spielman

Chair: Judy Coyle

## Other

### Women, Words and Wine – Thurs., Sept. 19, 5:30 p.m.

We discuss what matters to women and encourage new branch members. For this month's restaurant type into your search bar: Salem Women, Words and Wine

More info: Micki Varney

Donna Lutsyk →

## Member Corner

### Welcome New Members!

**Vanessa Nordyke**

and

**Marie Mueller**

Marie recently moved here from Grants Pass, where she was active in AAUW.



**President**— Mary Ellen Dello Stritto

503-269-3848

[dr.dellostritto@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dellostritto@gmail.com)

**Membership VP**— Dolores Mlynarczyk

503-931-8401 [dmlynarc@willamette.edu](mailto:dmlynarc@willamette.edu)

**Secretary**— Karen Sims

**Finance VP**— Mary Bauman

**AAUW Funds**— Betsy McDowell

**Public Policy Co-chairs**—

Joyce Zook & Laura Buhl

**Newsletter Editor**— Sally Hollemon

**Proofreader**— Donna Briney

**Circulation**— Sherry Yang

**Webmaster**— Sherry Yang

## Donna Lutsyk

### Outstanding Graduate Scholarship

*My academic goal at Chemeketa Community College is to complete as many classes as I can in order to transfer to Oregon Institute of Technology, where I hope to continue my education to become a medical sonographer, hopefully working primarily with children.*

*I chose to study at Chemeketa to take advantage of the Scholars program. Chemeketa also offers the same classes that I would need to take for the first year of the medical sonography program at O.I.T., and the classes are transferable. Chemeketa is also significantly closer to my home.*

*This scholarship means a lot to me because I am paying for school out of my own pocket, without the help of any Financial Aid. Having my tuition paid for has been incredible so far, but it can get tough trying to balance full-time school, a part-time job, and maintain a social life. There are also things like food, gas, insurance and car payments that I have to worry about, so receiving this scholarship means a great deal to me. Thank you for helping me pursue my dream career.*

## Hear Superintendent of S-K Schools

**Christy Perry, the superintendent of Salem-Keizer Schools, will speak on *K - 12 Education in the Salem-Keizer Schools* at the League of Women Voters Fall Brunch to be held on Saturday, September 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at Roth's in West Salem. (Park behind the store and enter from that parking lot.)**

Ms. Perry brings to her discussion a wide-range of experience in K-12 education that includes being an elementary school principal, a director of human resources and a decade leading the second largest school district in Oregon. Her talk is the first in an LWV-sponsored series on education that will consider the impact of homelessness on education, recent education legislation, and the future of education in Oregon.



Supt. Christy Perry

The League invites AAUW members and other interested people to attend the brunch. The cost is \$16 per person. Mail your check payable to LWVMPC (League of Women Voters of Marion & Polk Counties) to Elsa Struble, Treasurer, at 210 18th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

## Public Forum on *Campaign Finance Reform* on September 17



Rep. Dan Rayfield

Representative Dan Rayfield and a panel of policy experts and campaign finance reform legislative leaders will present a forum on *Campaign Finance Reform* on Tuesday, September 17, from 7 - 8:30 p.m., at the Oregon Capitol in Room 350, 900 Court St. NE.

Dan Rayfield is currently serving in the Oregon House of Representatives, representing House District 16, comprising Corvallis and Philomath, an office he has held since 2014. Rep. Rayfield and the other panelists are on a statewide tour (eight cities will be visited) to present a history of Oregon campaign finance reform, describe the 2019 Legislature's accomplishments, and spur a community discussion about the future of campaign finance reform.

Marion and Polk County League of Women Voters and the Salem Branch of AAUW are cosponsors of this informational event. Campaign Finance Reform has been a priority for the League as well as AAUW members. Kappy Eaton, who served many decades advocating for both organizations, made heroic efforts in Oregon's Legislature to achieve Campaign Finance Reform.

## Dream Builders Luncheon on October 24

Join the AAUW table at the Dream Builders Luncheon to hear the story of Quintin, who drove by Family Building Blocks (FBB) earlier this year and something nudged at his heart to stop in and share his story of where he and his son, Derik, are today because of FBBs' involvement early in their lives 10 years ago. Quintin was a drug addict when his son Derik was born. Derik's mom lost custody of him when he was an infant and she went back to prison. Quintin was trying to get clean and sober and was called to care for his child. Quintin said YES to changing his life around (To Page 5)

## Dream Builders Luncheon (Continued)

for the sake of his baby boy. So he called Family Building Blocks and will tell his story at this fall's Dream Builders Luncheon.

Join other AAUW members at the Luncheon on Thursday, October 24, at 11:30 (before the parking fills up) at the Salem Convention Center; the program runs from noon to 1 p.m. While the luncheon is free, this is a fundraiser for Family Building Blocks. If you can join us, contact Sally Hollemon.



## Meet Our New Central District Director—Elena Rae



I was born in Los Angeles and have lived on both coasts, Montana, Japan, and Hawaii. I came to Eugene 10 years ago following divorce. I looked at a map and found a progressive city with lots of water, that wasn't in the mountains, and in which the ex-husband had no desire to live.

I was a Navy wife from Vietnam to Gulf War the First; our postings included Panama and Granada. I sometimes had as many as three jobs, sequentially, at each change of station, as I tried to find the right fit. Once I had to take a job as a technical writer and morph it into a programming job, as I finished the user manual. That small company was very determined that no "girls" were going to get to work any of the engineering jobs. But they wanted the text processor that I wrote!

My college career was interrupted just a little by marriage, but I got my Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree in 1974. Ours was the first graduating class in the new discipline at Washington State University, *go Cougs*. I also put in time at the University of Washington, the University of Maryland (overseas), Napa Community College, Montana State University, and I taught computer programming for Central Texas College on Misawa Air Base in northern Japan.

I only had 20 years in my career as a Software Developer, Systems Analyst, and Site Manager, as I contracted Lyme Disease in 1990. I got rid of it in 2000, but was never able to regain enough of my mental abilities, particularly speed and working memory, to resume a full-fledged career. Nowadays, I don't do any programming; I just use programs that other people have written.

From 1991- 2009 I had a horse ranch in Bozeman, Montana. I bred, raised, and trained large ponies for riding and driving as well as horses for riding. I still love horses, but that itch has been scratched, and I never need to own another one; they tend to self-destruct, given the least chance. I particularly don't need to deal with another stallion. They are very opinionated. The mares insist on telling them how wonderful they are.

My hobbies are learning Spanish and traveling to Spanish-speaking countries and playing banjo and singing along in my one-octave range. I love walking with my dog and playing in my garden, joints permitting.

I'm looking forward to working with you and am hopeful that I'll get to know you and your Branch in the coming year. **Note:** There will not be a district meeting this fall.

## AAUW Salem Branch Celebrates Birthdays in June-September

### June 2019

Lynn Irvin  
Marjorie Stoltzfus  
Erin Hanni

### July 2019

Laura Buhl  
Deb Patterson

### August:

Wanda Hansen  
Deanna Ittis  
Jayne Oppliger  
Heraldine Schwartz  
Margo Spielman  
Alice Bartelt

### September:

Nancy Kuehn  
Gloria Martin  
Micki Varney



## AAUW Oral History Project 2019

*Dolores Mlynarczyk*

Our AAUW Oral History Project goal was to honor our life members who have contributed to Salem Branch's longevity and success.

We were fortunate to make the connection with CCTV (Capitol Community Television). Gloria Holland and I met with Wendy Brokaw, Outreach Specialist, at CCTV and discussed our plan. We made a timeline to proceed.

At this point in our project we had the means to videotape our interviewees. Now we needed a place to do the interviews, and that was handled by Joanne Stern. She made the reservations at Capitol Manor for the days and times needed.

We identified the members in our branch who are life members and have contributed to the Salem Branch/State AAUW. In doing so we wanted to capture their stories and voices.

We selected Jo Bateman, Marian Churchill, Rae Everitt, Gloria Martin, Evelyn Lorence Smith, Carol Neiger, Heraldine Schwartz, Meredie Sheehy, and Joanne Stern.

We sent emails/letters to them with the dates, times and place for the interviews along with a list of questions that would be asked during the interview process.

Our 4-day schedule set, we started on June 27<sup>th</sup> and completed the interviews on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each interview took about 45 minutes (including setup). To make each interviewee comfortable, Gloria explained that her interview would simply be a conversation.

This project was made possible in large part to the skills of Wendy Brokaw, who made the women's stories come alive. Now she is busy adding photos and editing the interviews.

The AAUW Salem Branch Oral History Project will be viewed by all on CCTV. We'll let you know when the program is ready for viewing. Copies of the program will be sent to Oregon AAUW, National AAUW, and placed in our local archives.



## Membership in Salem Branch through June 2020

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ I want to: \_\_\_\_\_ join AAUW \_\_\_\_\_ renew my membership in AAUW

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are renewing your membership, please fill out your *name* and any *new* contact info.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are a Paid Life member, your dues are \$15.00 Salem Branch and \$16.00 State.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are an Honorary Life (50 years) member you are exempt from National and State dues.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you are joining AAUW for the first time, please fill out the entire form, dues are \$90.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

AAUW members must hold at least an Associate's Degree (or equivalent, *e.g.*, RN).

<u>College/University attended</u>	<u>City &amp; State</u>	<u>Degree/Major</u>	<u>Year</u>

Dues cover AAUW programs, operations, and state & local AAUW publications sent by email.

**National** \$59.00 (\$56.00 is tax deductible) + **Oregon** \$16.00 + **Salem** \$15.00 = \$90.00

**Paid Life Member** dues to Salem Branch and AAUW of Oregon = \$31.00

**Honorary Life Member** dues to Salem Branch = \$15.00

To receive paper copies of the Salem Branch newsletter = \$15.00

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **American Association of University Women Salem Branch** (**NOT AAUW**) and mail it to AAUW Salem Branch, P.O. Box 2144, Salem, OR 97308.

Contact Membership Chair Dolores Mlynarczyk at [dmlynarc@Willamette.edu](mailto:dmlynarc@Willamette.edu) for additional info.

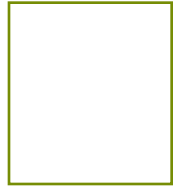
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### **AAUW**

promotes equity for  
women and girls  
through education,  
advocacy,  
philanthropy and  
research.